

# UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

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# GENERAL Q & A'S

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## **What is UPK?**

UPK stands for Universal Pre-Kindergarten. Through partnerships with Community Based Organizations(CBO's)/Preschools students are provided a full, structured day of preschool programming.

## **Who is eligible for UPK?**

4 year old children living in the Shenendehowa school district who were born between 12/2/2021 & 12/1/2022. In other words, the students must have turned 4 years old on or before 12/1/2026.

## **Do I have to pay for UPK programming?**

The UPK program provides tuition coverage for lottery selected families.

## **Where does the funding for UPK come from?**

Shenendehowa receives Federal and State funding for Universal Prekindergarten (UPK).



## **How are students selected for UPK?**

Parents will complete a lottery entry via a google form. Students are chosen randomly through a lottery system.

## **Where will UPK be located?**

CBO partnerships for the 26-27 school year are still being determined via an RFP and subsequent approval process. For the 25-26 school year, current partners include, Kid Kampus, Newmeadow, Childtime at Crossing Blvd., Little Genius, LifeWorks, and Lil'Lambs.

## **How are the UPK sites determined?**

Local CBO's/Preschool providers apply for partnership with the Shenendehowa school district by completing a Request for Proposal (RFP). Potential program providers are interviewed based on set criteria. Each will then be Board of Education approved.

## **If my child currently attends a PreK Program within the Shenendehowa School District already do I still have to apply via the lottery?**

Yes. All students who wish to receive UPK tuition coverage must enter, and be chosen through the lottery.



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## **When will I be notified of my child's eligibility?**

Letters will be sent out late May/early June 2026. The first round of letters will be sent out via regular mail (USPS) & email.

## **When is the start date for UPK?**

September 2026 (same day as district) through June 2027.

## **How many seats are available for the 2026-27 school year?**

The number of available seats is determined first based on grant funding; the number of approved Program Providers, and the number of seats they are able to provide Shen is then determined.

## **Will I have a choice as to which schools my child will attend?**

The assignments will be random, through the lottery.

## **What if my child does not get a seat? Is there a wait list?**

The District will maintain a waitlist for students. As seats open up, parents/guardians will be notified via email.

## **My child is attending Head Start (income qualified, through the county). Can he/she go to UPK instead?**

Yes. However, Special Education Related services may change based on Service Provider schedules and availability. It is the parent/guardian(s) responsibility to check with the provider.



## **Will transportation to and from school be provided?**

Transportation is not provided. Parents/guardians must transport their child to and from the UPK program.

## **Will a snack and lunch be provided?**

Snacks and food are to be provided by parents/guardians. Should any family be in need of assistance, program providers and the district will work to ensure a plan is in place.



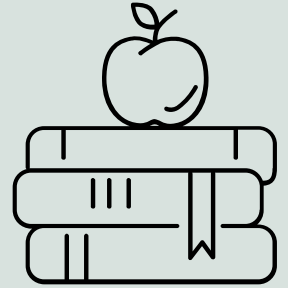
# GENERAL Q & A'S

## Are the teachers in the UPK program certified to teach?

Preschool teachers have the required credentials to instruct preschool students.

## What does the general structure of the day look like in UPK?

A full structured day will be provided. Specific times will be provided by the assigned Program Provider. The day generally includes circle time, small and whole group instruction, snacks/lunch, rest time if needed, and play.



## What is the earliest my child can be dropped off at the UPK program?

Pick up and drop off times are to be determined and shared with families chosen via the lottery by each Program Provider.

## Does the UPK program offer before or after care? What is the cost?

Before and after care is dependent on the Program Provider. The cost of before and after care is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

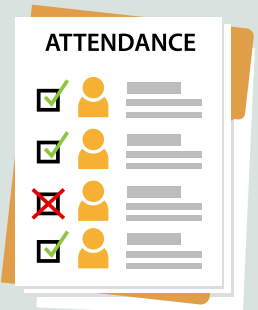
## What is the class size in UPK?

Each classroom can have up to 20 students, with 1 teacher and 1 assistant.



## Does my child have to attend the program 5 days a week?

Yes. This is a full-day, five days per week program. Attendance will be monitored and enforced.



## My family will be traveling for an extended period of time. Can our seat be held until we return?

No seats are held. However, a student can be placed back on the waitlist for another seat should it open. There is no guarantee a seat will be available, especially with the same Program Provider.

## If my child receives preschool special education services are they eligible for UPK?

Yes. If your child receives special education services they are eligible for UPK. Students who attend a special education preschool program due to their individual needs should consult with their preschool provider when considering making a change. UPK does not provide a special class self-contained option, nor does it provide a special education teacher on site. Students who receive related services will need to coordinate services with their providers.

## My child was assigned to a Program Provider through the lottery, but we would like them to attend another Program Provider instead. Can we switch?

No, but you could go back on the waitlist for a seat in a different program. When possible, preference is provided to families who have been attending or have a sibling attending at a particular program location.

# MEET THE CURRENT PROVIDERS

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## **Kid Kampus**

*282 Grooms Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

8:00am - 2:00pm

## **Newmeadow**

*23 Sitterly Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

8:30am-1:30pm



## **Little Genius**

*509 & 511 Moe Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065 & 1406 Rt. 9 Halfmoon, NY 12065*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

8:00am-2:00pm



## **Lil' Lambs**

*956 NY-146 Clifton Park, NY 12065*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

8:00am-2:00pm



## **Life Works Community Action/Headstart**

*253 Halfmoon Cir. Halfmoon, NY 12065 (Halfmoon Lodge)*

*25 Fern Ln. Clifton Park, NY 12065 (Cheryl's Lodge)*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

8:30am-2:30pm



## **Childtime**

*21 Crossing Blvd. Clifton Park, NY 12065*

Hours of Operation for UPK Program:

9:00-3:00pm





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# FUTHER QUESTIONS?

For all general UPK related questions, please email [prek@shenschools.org](mailto:prek@shenschools.org)

For questions seeking more detail/provider specific information after a seat offer, please contact your child's provider directly.

For specific questions about the registration process, please contact our district Registrar, Kelly Andre.



518-881-0662

[andrkell@shenschools.org](mailto:andrkell@shenschools.org)

[shenschools.org/registration](https://shenschools.org/registration)



Shenendehowa  
Central Schools